

OPINION 2090 (Case 3196)***Ctenotus decaneurus yampiensis* Storr, 1975 (currently *C. yampiensis*; Reptilia, Sauria): neotype designated**

Abstract. The Commission has designated a neotype for the Western Australian skink species *Ctenotus yampiensis* Storr, 1975 (family SCINCIDAE). Storr inadvertently designated a specimen of *C. militaris* Storr, 1975 as the holotype of *C. decaneurus yampiensis*, thus making the subspecific name a synonym of *C. militaris*. The established usage of these names is conserved by the designation of a specimen labelled 'type of *Ctenotus yampiensis*' by Storr, WAM R11741, as the neotype.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Reptilia; Sauria; Lacertilia; SCINCIDAE; *Ctenotus*; *Ctenotus yampiensis*; *Ctenotus militaris*; skinks; Western Australia.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power all previous type fixations for the nominal species *Ctenotus yampiensis* Storr, 1975 are hereby set aside and the specimen labelled as the 'type of *Ctenotus yampiensis*' from Wotjulum, West Kimberley, Western Australia in the Western Australian Museum, registration number R11741, is designated as the neotype.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *militaris* Storr, 1975, as published in the binomen *Ctenotus militaris* and as defined by the holotype in the Western Australian Museum, registration number R40779;
 - (b) *yampiensis* Storr, 1975, as published in the trinomen *Ctenotus decaneurus yampiensis* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above.

History of Case 3196

An application to designate a neotype for the Western Australian skink species *Ctenotus yampiensis* Storr, 1975 (family SCINCIDAE), because the author inadvertently designated a specimen of *C. militaris* Storr, 1975 as the holotype of *C. decaneurus yampiensis*, thus making the subspecific name a synonym of *C. militaris*, was received from L.A. Smith (*Western Australian Museum, Perth, Western Australia, Australia*) on 19 February 2001. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 59: 273–274 (December 2002). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments on this case were received.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 2004 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 59: 274. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2004 the votes were as follows: 19 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, 2 Commissioners voted AGAINST, Bouchet, Calder and Ng were on leave of absence, no vote was received from Macpherson.

Voting against, Mahnert commented that 'prevailing usage' should not overtake the Principle of Priority in this case. Too many errors are associated with the name *C. yampiensis*, which is clearly a synonym of *C. militaris*. Also voting against, Štys commented that the curatorial efforts to have everything in order precedes taxonomic study and consequently the ruling of the Commission could have some unexpected taxonomic side-effects. The request seems premature.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

militaris, Ctenotus, Storr, 1975, *Records of The Western Australian Museum*, 3: 231.

yampiensis, Ctenotus *decaneurus*, Storr, 1975, *Records of The Western Australian Museum*, 3: 235.